New Independent Claim 11

The structure defined in the above additional independent claim 11, specifically the feature " said metal ring assembly is interposed between the radially outer edge of the ring slot and a saddle face of the metal element constituting a radially inner edge of said ring slot", is clearly supported by the originally filed drawings, particularly Figs. 3 and 4, for example.

Claim 11 exclusively defines the following feature:

"said metal ring assembly (31) is interposed between the radially outer edge (38U) of the ring slot (35) and a saddle face (38L) of the metal element (32) constituting a radially inner edge of said ring slot (35)" (reference numerals based on the embodiment of Figs. 3 and 4 of the application are inserted for facilitating the understanding of this claimed structure.)

The test of the subject application describes deficiencies of the prior art in the column " DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART" as well as in Figs. 7 and 8 such that the inclination of the metal element 32 in the travel direction (in the direction of the arrow M or M' in Fig. 7) makes the metal element 32 abut against the metal ring assembly 32 at portions b and a in Fig. 8, resulting in an undesirable large stress being generated thereat, leading to the wear of the metal ring assembly 31.

However, according to the invention defined in new claim 11, it is specifically arranged that an endless resilient member (44) which is deformable radially is disposed between said radially outer edge (38U) of the ring slot (35) and a radially outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly (31) (the feature at the last paragraph of the claim). Owing to this arrangement, as exemplified in Fig. 4 of the application, even

if the metal element (32) is inclined in the travel direction and the outer peripheral surface of the metal ring assembly (31) is put into contact with the front end (b) of the lower face (38U) of the ring slot (35) (i.e., of the ear of the metal element (32) of the embodiment via the resilient member (44)), and the resilient member (44) can be resiliently deformed to absorb a shock. When the shock acting on the front end (b) of the lower face (38U) of the ring slot (35) as viewed in the travel direction has been buffered by the resilient deformation of the resilient member (44), a shock acting on a reaction to the rear end (a) of the saddle face (38L) as viewed in the travel direction is also buffered. Thus, the wear of the metal belt (15) can be prevented by a simple structure in which the resilient member (44) is only added, without subjecting the metal elements (32) to a special processing.

It is noted that the problem to be solved by the present invention is based on an arrangement that the metal ring assembly (31) is interposed between the radially inner and outer edges (38L) and (38U) of the ring slot (35), as recited in claim 11 and exemplified in Fig. 3 of the application.

By contrast, in the case of Sekine et al., the above arrangement of the present invention has not been shown. See Fig. 3 of Sekine et al., for example, in which the upper edge 22d of the slot 22 of the metallic block 20 does not extend over and cover the belt strap 15 from above. Even if the metallic block 20 is inclined in the travel direction, the belt strap 15 would not interfere with such inclined block 20 strongly. It is apparent that Sekine et al. have nothing to do with the problem and solution addressed by the present invention.